Setting up of Steel Plant in Karnataka

870. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 175 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th August, 1991 and state what progress has so far been made in setting up of the steel plant in Belary district of the Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): According to information received from the Government of Karnatake, an MOU has been reached between M/s. Karnataka State Industrial Investment and Development Corporation Ltd. (KSIIDC), a State Government undertaking of the Government of Karnataka and M/s. Essar Gujarat Ltd. a Joint Sector Company is under incorporation. A Project Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka has been constituted to oversee the implementation of the project, and a Director has been appointed for the project. RITES have prepared a feasibility report for the transport of raw materials, and a detailed project report by MECON is expected to be ready shortly. The joint sector partner, M/s. Essar Gujarat have arrived at an understanding with the Chinese for technical assistance and technology and engineering services. It has further been intimated by the State Government of Karataka that the project is being implemented in phases, and the first phase of the project will be implemented in three years.

New policy on steel

871. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to formulate a new policy regarding steel prices, distribution and decontrol; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Participation in "Rebuild Kuwait" exhibition by SAIL

872. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India has participated at the "Rebuild Kuwait" exhibition held recently at Bahrain; and

(b) if so, what is the number of spot orders received by SAIL and what are the details of such orders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two spot orders were received by SAIL. The orders are for supply of 600 tonnes of steel structurals and sheets valued at about Rs. 50 lakhs.

Shortage of raw materials in Durgapur Steel Plant

873. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that operations at the Durgapur Steel Plant have been adversely affected due to sohrtage of raw materials including coal and iron ore; and

(b) if so, what remedial action Government have taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. The operations at Durgapur Steel Plant have been adversely affected during October, 1991 and in the current month due to lower than the planned receipts of coking coal from Coal India Ltd. (CIL) sources and of iron ore. However, the direct impact on production was reduced by an inter-